

# HQ U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region



Public Affairs Office  
Unit 29353, Box 200 APO AE 09014  
69033 Heidelberg  
DSN 370-7549/7235 Tel.: 06221-57-7549/7235

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2005

### **U.S. Forces Sport Shooting Program Approved by German Government**

HEIDELBERG, GE — Good news for sport shooters who are stationed in Germany.

The German federal government has approved the U.S. Forces Sport Shooting Program. The immediate benefit from this approval is that U.S. forces ID card holders who are stationed in Germany will now be able to apply for and obtain a German weapons possession permit (Waffenbesitzkarte/WBK) once they have met all of the sport shooting program requirements.

Dieter Graefrath of the German Federal Administration Office presented the formal approval document to Installation Management Agency Europe Region Director Russell Hall during a presentation ceremony in Mr. Hall's office in Heidelberg on June 8, the day the program went into effect.

Thomas Conrad of the German Federal Administration Office, and Rafael Wunsch, IMA-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division Hunting, Fishing and Sport Shooting Program manager, also attended the presentation.

In addition to U.S. forces requirements, private firearms ownership for U.S. forces personnel became subject to German law during the 1990s.

After many years of coordination with several German federal government ministries, U.S. forces personnel interested in sport shooting now have a way to enjoy the sport, and to register and to possess their firearms in Germany.

U.S. forces personnel who have trained and certified through the U.S. Forces hunting program in Germany, and have obtained a German hunting license, have been eligible to register their hunting firearms on a German WBK throughout this period.

Procedures for sport shooting in Germany are different from traditional shooting programs in the United States. A noteworthy difference is that German law requires sport shooters to be active with their hobby and to meet or exceed the standard of shooting in practice and/or competition a minimum of eighteen sessions over a one-year period.

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## SPORT SHOOTING PROGRAM

Membership in the U.S. Forces hunting, fishing and sport shooting program is a prerequisite for sport shooting eligibility. Membership info, along with other information and assistance, is available locally at IMA-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation Rod and Gun Clubs or Outdoor Recreation Centers.

### Sidebar:

U.S. Forces Sport Shooting Program simplified step-by-step procedure:

1. Become a member of the U.S. Forces Hunting, Fishing and Sport Shooting Program.
2. Obtain instruction on safe usage of firearms and begin shooting.
3. Take a short written and practical examination.
4. Obtain liability insurance for sport shooting.
5. Log each shooting session.
6. Shoot at least 18 times for one year.
7. Apply for a German weapons possession permit (Waffenbesitzkarte/WBK.)
8. Maintain eligibility through U.S. forces program membership and regular participation of at least 18 sessions per year.



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The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from driver's licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.